

SENATE BILL 797

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By: **Senator Jones**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2010

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Blue Ribbon Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and Related
4 Disorders; providing for the membership of the Task Force; designating the
5 chair of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving
6 compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive certain
7 reimbursement; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
8 provide staff for the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to examine certain
9 population data, survey certain research, and assess existing services,
10 resources, and capacity regarding Alzheimer's disease and related disorders;
11 requiring the Task Force to make certain recommendations; requiring the Task
12 Force to make a certain report to the Governor and General Assembly on or
13 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
14 relating to the Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders.

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That:

17 (a) There is a Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders.

18 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

19 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
20 of the Senate;

21 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
22 the House;

23 (3) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;

24 (4) the Secretary of Aging;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee;

2 (6) the Commissioner of the Insurance Administration, or the
3 Commissioner's designee; and

4 (7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

5 (i) a representative of the United States Department of
6 Veterans Affairs with expertise in Alzheimer's disease and related disorders;

7 (ii) an attorney who works directly with disabled or elderly
8 individuals;

9 (iii) a representative of the Alzheimer's Association, Greater
10 Maryland Chapter;

11 (iv) a physician currently conducting research in Alzheimer's
12 disease and related disorders;

13 (v) a health care professional with expertise in addressing racial
14 and ethnic health disparities;

15 (vi) a psychologist or psychiatrist with expertise in Alzheimer's
16 disease and related disorders;

17 (vii) a physician with expertise in end-of-life care and pain
18 management;

19 (viii) a registered nurse with expertise in Alzheimer's disease and
20 related disorders;

21 (ix) a licensed nurse practitioner with expertise in end-of-life
22 care and pain management;

23 (x) an individual with early onset Alzheimer's disease;

24 (xi) an individual with early stage Alzheimer's disease; and

25 (xii) two family caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's
26 disease.

27 (c) The Secretaries of Health and Mental Hygiene and Aging shall co-chair
28 the Task Force.

29 (d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the
30 Task Force.

1 (e) A member of the Task Force:

2 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

3 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
4 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

5 (f) The Task Force shall:

6 (1) examine population data in the State for Alzheimer's disease and
7 related disorders;

8 (2) survey current research on Alzheimer's disease and related
9 disorders;

10 (3) assess existing services, resources, and capacity for the State's
11 Alzheimer's disease and related disorders population, including:

12 (i) the cost and availability of health care, housing, and other
13 support services;

14 (ii) training requirements for long-term care staff; and

15 (iii) quality care measures for nursing homes; and

16 (4) make recommendations regarding the steps the State should take
17 in dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, including a review of:

18 (i) long-term care;

19 (ii) family caregiver support; and

20 (iii) assistance to individuals with early onset and early stage
21 Alzheimer's disease.

22 (g) On or before September 30, 2012, the Task Force shall report its findings
23 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
24 Government Article, the General Assembly.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2010. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of
27 September 30, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
28 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.